

SPEACONN

The **SigEp** @ **UConn** Alumni Newsletter

A PUBLICATION OF SIGMA PHI EPSILON AT THE UNIVERSITY OF CONNECTICUT

FALL 2022

INSIDE:

ED KAPLAN '88
MEMORIAL
SERVICE

2

TRAGOS QUEST
TO GREECE

3

ALUMNI
SPOTLIGHT

4

THANK YOU,
LOYAL BROTHERS,
FOR YOUR SUPPORT

4

CHAPTER
ETERNAL

6

ALUMNI NEWS

7

REFLECTING
ON RUCK

8

Save the Date

2022

Extravaganza
Reunion

Wickham Park,
Manchester, Conn.
Saturday,
September 17, 2022.
For more information,
refer to page 8.

Connecticut Alpha Remains Strong Thanks to the Dedication of Our Brothers

It is an exciting but bittersweet privilege to write to you in our first newsletter since I became president of Connecticut Alpha's Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) in late 2021. On one hand, I am very pleased that the SPEACONN has returned after a two-year hiatus, and it is an honor to be trusted by Connecticut Alpha's AVC Board of Directors to lead our incredible group of mentors and volunteers. On the other hand, my heart still aches that my predecessor, the late **Ed Kaplan '88**, is not here to pen this note to you all.

By the time you receive this newsletter, it will be just under a year since we learned Brother Kaplan was stricken with cancer, and around 10 months since he passed. His was "a life unfinished," and the whole AVC feels his absence. In the months since his passing, I have worked with several heroic alumni and volunteers to fill Big Ed's shoes.

The return of SPEACONN is one of the many fruits of my fellow brothers' sustained efforts. To those of you who have given your time, treasure, and talents over the past year, even if it was just a simple condolence or attending one of our socials, thank you. "The ties of fraternal love are binding and holy"—a Hoop of Steel—and your support over the past months has been a potent reminder of what makes our fraternity so special.

Moreover, Ed would be very proud of all the chapter and AVC have accomplished this past year.

On the chapter side, it returned to its pre-coronavirus manpower and is achieving the highest chapter GPAs in Connecticut Alpha's history. Over the past four years, three members have participated in SigEp's most selective program, the Tragos Quest to Greece, and a dozen undergraduates went to the Denver Conclave in 2021, where the chapter received its second consecutive Buchanan Cup.

On the AVC side, we have grown our active volunteer roster to over 25 members. Of course, there is always more work to be done. As you read through this issue, please consider supporting our mission however you can. We have no shortage of volunteer roles that need filling (both big and small), and our AVC and chapter's operational excellence would not be possible without the generous financial support of our alumni.

Be well, and I hope to see many of you at our biannual reunion on September 17. Refer to page 8 for more information on our upcoming biannual reunion.

HFF,

Van Augur '20

AVC President and Director

speaconn@gmail.com



Our brothers represent Connecticut Alpha at the Denver Conclave in 2021.



Brothers enjoy sharing a meal at the Buckhorn Exchange in Denver on Friday night.



The Conclave Chorus at the formal dinner.



Ed Kaplan '88 Memorial Service

Brothers and Family Gather to Celebrate Big Ed



Van Augur '20, the president of Connecticut Alpha's Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, leads the celebration.



Ethan Lovallo '23 (top) and Dan Sullivan, Quinnipiac '13 (bottom) share stories of Ed.



The Sabbs Brothers singing their new song, "A Life Unfinished."

On the cool, overcast day of Sunday, April 24, 2022, over 100 SigEp undergraduates, alumni, and family gathered in Storrs, Connecticut to honor the life of **Ed Kaplan '88**.

The emotional celebration was punctuated with the news that SigEp's National Board of Directors voted to posthumously recognize Ed with the Exemplary Service Award, the fraternity's second-highest award for exceptional service and the highest honor bestowed posthumously.

To honor the impact Ed had at UConn, the undergraduate brothers in attendance voted to dedicate the chapter house as the "Ed Kaplan House at Connecticut Alpha."

During his rich life, Ed loved to hold court, so it was fitting that those who had traveled from as far away as California, Florida, Pennsylvania, and New York were rewarded with a touching tribute to one of the greatest brothers to walk the halls of Connecticut Alpha.

Van Augur '20, the current president of Connecticut Alpha's Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, led the celebration and set the tone. He thanked **Chad Stewart '88** for helping organize the event as well as **Joe Langella '83** and **Steve Chaneles '83** for donating a beautiful, framed photo of Ed taken by **Dylan Feldmeier '19**, which was hung in the house, and to **Chip Hunziker '84** for sponsoring the happy hour before the Saturday night dinner.

In his homage to Ed, Van expertly wove together a poignant story about the unfinished business of the Italian composer Giacomo Puccini and Ed. As legend has it, before his death Puccini asked his students to finish his last opera, which they did with broken hearts. Similarly, Van encouraged the audience to emulate Ed's unparalleled passion and spirit for his life and his fraternity.

In keeping with the theme, the Sabbs Brothers, Connecticut Alpha's legendary house band, unveiled a new song, entitled "A Life Unfinished," written by Sabbs members **Mike Gourdiere '86**, **Bill Gunn '88**, and **Vinny Piselli '86**.

Those in attendance naturally were emotional, especially during the touching chorus:

For he lived a life unfinished
And we're here to carry on
You're a brother and son, lover
and friend
And we'll keep on singing
your song

On that special day in Storrs, it was clear that "Big Ed's" spirit of service, devotion to duty, and sense of brotherly love will carry on.

Fraternally,
Tom Birmingham '86

Thank You, Brothers and Friends, for Making Our Celebration Possible

It was wonderful to be able to gather to celebrate the life of **Ed Kaplan '88** and his dedication to Sigma Phi Epsilon. The entire weekend was made possible through the generous financial and in-kind support from the following brothers, loved ones, and special friends. Thank you!

Wade Medlar '81
Will Marvin '82
Steven Chaneles '83
Steven Jason '83
Joe Langella '83
Charles "Chip" Hunziker '84
Marshall Senk '85
Bill Wivell '85
Amy Killeen and
Tom Birmingham '86
Neil Goldberg '86
Vincent Piselli '86

Chris Chadbourne '88
Donna and Chad Stewart '88
Craig Zettergren '88
Randolph Wojnarowicz '94
Andy Kelly, Arkansas '00
Danon Dixon '06
Andrew Kim '15
John Forlivio '16
Johnathan Rasimas '17
Max Sicard '17
Samad Khan '18
Daniel Lubinitsky '18

Luke Maloney '18
Sean Chilson '19
Dylan Feldmeier '19
Tim O'Toole '19
Nick Semenza '19
John Brindisi '20
Louis Crisci '20
Maxwell Neary '20
Dominic Shumilla '21
Middletown Framing



SigEp

Chapter Officers

President

Ethan Lovallo '23

Fairfield, Conn.

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Vice President of Communications

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Chaplain

Sam Greene '23

Boston, Mass.

thebossgreene@gmail.com

Exploring the Meaning of Life

John Donnelly '23 Reflects on the Tragos Quest to Greece

This June, brother **John Donnelly '23** represented our chapter as a Tragos Quest to Greece Scholar to explore Greek culture and learn more about SigEp's Balanced Man ideal. John was selected from a highly competitive applicant pool as one of the 17 brothers nationwide given the opportunity to attend the event, and we are incredibly proud to have him represent Connecticut Alpha.

During his time in the chapter, John served as chapter president, brother mentor challenge coordinator, co-chairman for the Balanced Man Scholarship Committee, and other leadership positions. In addition, during his time as president he gave up his position in the chapter to serve overseas in Kuwait as part of the Connecticut Air National Guard.

"I am truly grateful and fortunate to have spent the past 10 days searching for and reflecting on the interior and exterior truths that guide our lives on the 2022 Tragos Quest to Greece," John shared. "One of the few things that was made certain is that there is little meaning to life without relationships, so may we cherish those above all else. Thank you, SigEp, for making this possible, and thank you to all brothers for making this a once-in-a-lifetime experience. Cheers!"



Resident Scholar Thomas Acquista '22, AVC Director, Jonathan Wharton, Stevens Tech Renaissance '07, former Chapter President John Donnelly '23, Chapter Counselor Andy Kelly, Arkansas '00, and AVC President Van Augur '20.

Welcome, New Members

Sean Albagli '25

Clifton Park, N.Y.

Jacob Hobbs '24

Ledyard, Conn.

Kellen Paparella '25

Colchester, Conn.

Danny Baker '24

Madison, Conn.

Ryan Hornish '25

Glen Rock, N.J.

Sean Power '23

Coventry, Conn.

David Brandeis '25

Haverford, Pa.

Cam Irvine '23

Cromwell, Conn.

Justin Schneider '25

Walpole, Mass.

John Bray '25

Willington, Conn.

Cyrus Kugelmass '24

Mansfield Center, Conn.

Spencer Sivilla '23

Litchfield, Conn.

Caleb Moulema Douala '24

Longmeadow, Mass.

Luke Maynard '25

Colchester, Conn.

Fred Torres '22

Wallingford, Conn.

Edgar Garcia '25

Wahiawa, Hawaii

Kevin Mitchell '24

Wilton, Conn.

Marcel Wolanin '24

Berlin, Conn.

Sam He '25

La Jolla, Calif.

Zach O'Connor '25

Mahopac, N.Y.

Eric Ziff '23

Burlington, Conn.





Thank You, Loyal Brothers, For Your Support

Join Us in Our Fundraising Efforts Soon

Thank you, brothers, for your support in our annual appeals. Your commitment to Connecticut Alpha helps ensure our members continue to develop into balanced men.

As we continue to help our brothers grow, we will soon begin our fundraising efforts again. Our ability to support the

undergraduate chapter is made possible through the generous support of our alumni. Your contributions help us provide our brothers with the resources they need to excel in their academics, become stronger leaders, and much more. In coming weeks, we will provide more information on our goals and how you can support Connecticut Alpha.

Francis R. Dillon '62
Ted Johnson '62
John S. Santa '64
Richard J. Baranowski '65
Brayton Walsh '67
Robert Flynn '82

William H. Marvin '82
Steven B. Chaneles '83
Joseph W. Langella '83
Douglas C. Shidler '83
Michael Antonini '84
Robert Barile '84

Charles "Chip" Hunziker '84
Ronald J. Nault '84
Marshall Senk '85
Thomas R. Birmingham '86
Larry Carboni '86
Lane M. Driscoll '86

James V. Moreno '86
Marshall Senk '87
Shane E. Bartling '90
Kyle T. Halligan '03

Visit: <https://bit.ly/3CvoD1o> to make your donation Today!

Alumni and Volunteer Corporation

Board of Directors

President Van Augur '20	Secretary Steven Chaneles '83
Vice President Chad Stewart '88	Robert Flynn '82 Steven Del Gallo '18 Andre Wang '19
Treasurer Larry Carboni '86	Jonathan Wharton, Stevens Tech Renaissance '07

Volunteers (Non-Board)

Chapter Counselor Andy Kelly, Arkansas '00	Mentor Committee Steven Chaneles '83 Larry Carboni '86 Andrew Kim '15 Bill Oldach '16 Ryced Khan '17 Samad Khan '18 Luke Maloney '18 George Andrews III '19 Andre Wang '19 Van Augur '20 Dean Zacchio '20
Balanced Man Steward Bill Oldach '16	
Faculty Fellow Dr. Sarira Motaref	
Resident Scholar Thomas Acquista '22	

Other Committee Chairmen

Newsletter and Fundraising
Steven Chaneles '83
Tom Birmingham '86

Alumni Relations
and Networking
Samad Khan '18
Pieter Siebesma '20

Reunion
Jerry Dallas '70
Will Marvin '82



Committed to Leadership

Dr. George Zitnay '60 Dedicates His Career to Mental Health Research



Dr. George Zitnay '60 is considered an international expert on traumatic brain injury and neurorehabilitation. He started his career in Connecticut as the youngest person ever appointed as a superintendent of a public mental health center. While in Connecticut, George studied with Professor Seymour Sarason of Yale University and published his first book, *Creation of a Community Center*, with Professors Sarason and F. Grossman.

George later became an assistant professor in the Department of Child Neurology and Psychiatry at Boston University Medical School. He moved on to serve in the cabinet of Governor James Longley of Maine as the commissioner of mental health, mental retardation, and corrections. He later served as the associate commissioner of mental health for mental retardation in Massachusetts. George was appointed as director of the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation in Washington, D.C., where he worked with the Kennedy Family on their many activities.

In his career, George assisted with the drafting of the Americans with Disability Act, Community Mental Health Centers Act, and other legislations benefiting persons with special needs. In the 1990s, he was appointed as CEO and executive director of the Brain Injury Association of America. While serving in this capacity, he was appointed to the Advisory Boards of the NICHD, NIH, CDC, and NORD.

George co-founded the Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center (DVBIC) with Colonel Andres Salazar. DVBIC is the premier brain injury and PTSD treatment and research center of the Department of Defense. In addition, George is the founder and first president of the International Brain Injury Association, and in this role, he traveled extensively to teach, train, and help develop programs and services for traumatic brain injury. He also served as the chairman of the WHO Neurotrauma Committee.

Prior to George's retirement, he served as director of the Virginia Neurological Institute at UVA and a professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at UVA Medical School. He has written many scientific articles on the brain and has been published in a variety of peer-reviewed journals. In addition, he has written and co-written medical texts on brain injuries.

Upon his retirement, George moved to Johnstown, Pennsylvania, with his wife, Lorraine. They have two sons, Kevin and Christopher, who are both physicians, and five grandchildren. George attributes his leadership success to Sigma Phi Epsilon. You can connect with him at gzitnay@comcast.net.



A STRENGTHENED BROTHERHOOD

Connecticut Alpha Embraces Its Accomplishments

The last chapter president's report was published in the spring 2020 newsletter, shortly after the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unwavering leadership of my predecessors, **Ross Bodington '21**, **John Donnelly '23**, and **Stony Brooks '22**, guided Connecticut Alpha through seemingly endless COVID-19 restrictions, including having to relinquish our house to the university for possible quarantine housing. Yet, our brothers rose to the challenge and quickly transitioned to operating remotely. Throughout the pandemic, we continued to excel in academics (3.61 in fall '20, 3.65 in spring '21, 3.45 in fall '21, and 3.5 in spring '22), and discovered new ways to strengthen our brotherhood and keep our chapter running at optimal performance.

During the pandemic, in conjunction with other organizations on campus, we turned much of our efforts toward philanthropy. Promoting fundraising virtually, we raised over \$2,400 for Toys for Tots just before the Christmas season and completed a coat drive for the Salvation Army. We also participated in HuskyTHON, one of the university's biggest fundraising efforts of the year.

We are proud of the many individual and group accomplishments of our undergraduate and alumni since the last newsletter and share with you highlights below. We thank our alumni and volunteers for their support and guidance. Without you, we could not have continued to excel as we did during a very challenging time.

Faternally,
Ethan Lovallo '23
Chapter President

Chapter Honors and Events

- At the 2021 Conclave in Denver, the chapter was awarded its second consecutive Buchanan Cup.
- We earned the top GPA for all IFC fraternities in fall 2021 and spring 2022.
- The University conferred "A" Status accreditation the fall '21 and spring '22 semesters.
- The chapter received two Arete Awards from the University and was recognized by the University for the best chapter operations for 2021.
- SigEp accredited the chapter as a SigEp Learning Community.
- We welcomed a new faculty fellow, Dr. Sarira Motaref, a faculty member in the School of Engineering. Please see her profile here: <https://cee.engr.uconn.edu/people/motaref-sarira>.
- We held a Balanced Man Scholarship Banquet featuring AVC Director **Andre Wang '19**, Regional Director **Thomas Heniff, Indiana Institute of Technology '21**, and AVC Director **Jonathan Wharton, Steven Tech Renaissance '07**. The top prize recipient, **Jake Daignault '25**, joined as a brother in spring 2022.
- We reinstituted a chapter-wide retreat after a four-year hiatus.

- As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, SigEp partners each year with Alpha Delta Pi to host the Live Your Oath campaign, which focuses on understanding living our membership oaths and preventing sexual assault to create safer campuses. Brothers traveled to Sacred Heart University for the Spring 2022 campaign. We are deeply grateful to **Ken Mysogland '86**, MSW, director of the Ombudsman Office of the Connecticut Department of Children and Families for facilitating the program again this year.

Individual Highlights

- Thomas Acquista '22** attended the Tragos Quest to Greece in 2021, and **John Donnelly '23** attended the Tragos Quest to Greece in 2022.
- Aiden O'Connor '22** received the Outstanding Vice President of Recruitment Award.
- Thomas Acquista '22**, has signed on as the chapter's new resident scholar.
- Sammy Jacinto '23** received an award from the university for the most creative philanthropy events for spring 2022.
- Ethan Lovallo '23** and **Will Servino '24** attended the Ruck Leadership Institute.
- Michael Quinn '24** won Greek Emerging Leader of the Year in 2021.
- Will Servino '24** won the IFC Scholarship for the second year in a row for his display of the core values of citizenship, scholarship, fellowship, and leadership.

Alumni Highlights

- Steve Chaneles '83** serves on the national Financial and Compliance Committee and Volunteer Development Committee, and recently completed 12 years of service as District Governor of Florida.
- Steve Jason '83** serves on the national Mental Health Committee and serves as a director of the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation of the NY Gamma chapter at NYU.
- Joe Langella '83** serves as chairperson of the national District Governor Committee and 125th Anniversary Committee.
- Bill Gunn '88** received the Distinguished Alumnus Award.
- Eric Muschlitz '92** serves as president of the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation for the Illinois Xi chapter at Depaul University.
- Eric Muschlitz '92** and **Steve Chaneles '83** received the Larkin Bailey/Babe Fly Award for having attended their 15th Conclave.
- Samad Khan '18** serves as the chapter counselor at the North Carolina Beta Chapter at N.C. State University.
- Van Augur '20** serves on the national Ritual Task Force, and completed a two-year term as a student director on the National Board of Directors.
- Connecticut Alpha placed in the top 10 among all SigEp chapters in giving and participation for the 2020 and 2021 national Annual Founders Day of Giving campaigns.



Van Augur '20 and Thomas Acquista '22 accepting the Buchanan Cup.



SigEp members dedicate their time to philanthropy, raising \$2,400 for Toys for Tots.



Van Augur '20 completes his term on the National Board of Directors.



Steve Chaneles '83 and Eric Muschlitz '92 with the Larkin Bailey/Babe Fly Loyalty Cup.



Chapter Eternal

Donald Arthur Littlefield '54 entered Chapter Eternal on February 19, 2022, peacefully passing away in his sleep surrounded by his loving family in Wakefield, R.I., after a bout with pancreatic cancer. He was a 10th-generation Block Islander. Don graduated in 1954 with a B.S. from UConn's School of Business. He served as a first lieutenant in the U.S. Army during the Korean Conflict. Upon his return, Don worked for the Aetna Insurance Co. in Hartford, Conn., and then the J. R. Tallman Insurance Co. in Taunton, Mass, as vice president and general manager. Exemplifying a commitment to community service, he served many community-based organizations, including Morton Hospital, Rotary International, the Pilgrim Congregational Church Board of Managers, and the United Way. Upon his retirement in 1994, Don and his wife, Lydia, moved to their summer home on Block Island. Brother Littlefield was president of Iota Nu Delta at UConn before it became a Sigma Phi Epsilon Chapter, and he was initiated as a SigEp.

Donald Albert Koop '58 entered Chapter Eternal on October 28, 2021. Brother Koop was born in Jamaica, N.Y. He graduated high school in Newton, N.J., and received a B.S. from UConn and a Ph.D. from the University of Maine. He then moved with his young family to Rochester, N.Y., where he worked over 30 years for Eastman Kodak Company. Retiring at age 55, he pursued his love of travel and attained his goal of visiting all 50 states (many by Amtrak, his preferred method of travel) and all seven continents. Later in life, Don moved to Roanoke, Va., with his wife, Sharon, living in their dream home they designed and built. He was a true Balanced Man, having enjoyed many hobbies, including woodworking, photography, gardening, camping, canoeing, and hiking.

Dolph Santello '60 entered Chapter Eternal on July 25, 2021. He worked for the Southern New England Telephone Company for over 30 years and then for the Microsoft Corporation for eight. Dolph was also a graduate of Quinnipiac University, and received several graduate degrees and certificates, leading up to a doctorate in Public Administration from Nova University. He loved teaching public administration courses at the University of New Haven and enjoyed giving his time to a variety of organizations, especially soup kitchens in the New Haven and Charlestown, R.I., areas.

Dan M. Steward '72 entered Chapter Eternal on October 24, 2021. After graduating from UConn, Dan went on to earn a master's degree in organization psychology from the University of New Haven. He worked for 28 years for the former Southern New England Telephone, followed by three years at the Millstone Power Station. Dan was a community leader and was passionate about many topics and organizations. He was a longtime member of the First Baptist Church of New London, where he was a deacon and served on many boards. Additionally, he served on the Waterford Representative Town Meeting and the Board of Education before serving as the Town of Waterford's longest serving first selectman from 2005 until 2019. Dan had a passion for education and oversaw the construction of four new schools. In 2012, he served as chairman of the board of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, and in 2016, he was honored as Citizen of the Year by the New London Lodge of Elks.

Joseph W. "Big Joe" Langella Sr., Renaissance '83 entered Chapter Eternal on June 15, 2022, following a long illness. Joe was a devoted father to chapter brothers **Joseph W. Langella Jr. '83**, **Michael Langella '84**, **Paul Langella '87**, and Peter (UConn class of '85). He was a loving husband to his wife, Audrey, and a loyal friend to all who knew him. It seems fitting

that, as the father of three Connecticut Alpha brothers, in 1983 he became the chapter's first Renaissance initiate. Reflecting fondly on a life well-lived, Joe Jr. said about his father, "Recently, I saw a business book titled Leaders Eat Last. Immediately, I thought of our dad. He always 'ate last,' making sure everyone was taken care of before he took care of himself." Big Joe was surrounded by many Connecticut Alpha brothers who, led by AVC President **Van Augur '20**, participated in SigEp's Memorial Service, placing a rose in tribute as he was laid to rest.

Felix Ivan Garcia '86 entered Chapter Eternal suddenly on June 23, 2021. Upon graduation from UConn, he joined the United States Marine Corps, and served as a member of the Marine Corps Embassy Security Team. He was discharged with the rank of sergeant. Felix enjoyed writing poetry, playing guitar, and drawing. He was fluent in Spanish, French, and Italian.

Marty Angelo Tiezzi '86 entered Chapter Eternal on January 29, 2021, due to complications from heart disease that he had been suffering from for several years. Marty received his bachelor's degree in biological science and pre-med. After college, Marty started his professional career working in pharmaceutical and medical sales, and later went on to create his own sales company, Bio-Info Marketing Services. We will always remember his larger-than-life personality.

Sean Walsh '87, of Kingston, R.I., entered Chapter Eternal on July 22, 2022, after a brief illness. Working professionally as a social worker, Sean embodied our Cardinal Principles of Virtue and Brotherly Love, helping many people through his work and putting others first. He loved the Red Sox and music and was an excellent guitar player in two bands. In the words of **Paul Leonardo '87**, "It's never easy to say goodbye to someone so young, but Sean lived a full life with a big Irish family and a heart that he was both proud of and sated him. He always put his family first." Sean is survived by his wife and high school sweetheart, Holly, and their sons, Connor, Liam, and Aidan.

Edward "Big Ed" Kaplan '88 entered Chapter Eternal on October 24, 2021, after a brief illness. The many SigEp brothers in attendance at Ed's funeral service participated in SigEp's memorial service, led by Connecticut Army National Guard Brigadier General **Ralph Hedenberg '89**. Roses were placed by representatives of each of the SigEp communities impacted by Ed: Brother Hedenberg, **Dan Sullivan, Quinnipiac '13**, **Van Augur '20**, **Bill Gunn '88**, and **Paul Litcher, Indiana Tech '90**.

Ed's commitment to SigEp was deep, wide, and distinguished. In 2018, he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award. He was also a two-time recipient of the Volunteer of the Year award. He was a Conclave Loyal Legionnaire and received the Larkin Bailey/Babe Fly Loyalty Cup upon attending his 15th Conclave. Ed attended his final Conclave in 2021 in Denver. He served all three Connecticut chapters: Connecticut Alpha as AVC president, and as chapter counselor for Connecticut Delta at Yale University and Connecticut Epsilon at Quinnipiac University. When Connecticut Alpha was restarted at UConn in 2014, Ed's involvement played a significant role in its success. Tapped to serve as president of the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, he performed the role with great passion and dedication until the time of his passing. He recruited volunteers to support the chapter and updated alumni on the growing chapter's progress.

May one of our Fraternity symbols, the red rose, now assume added significance as an expression of our enduring Brotherly Love for our departed brothers.



Alumni News

Will “Mook” “Big Daddy” Marvin ’82 celebrated his 65th birthday on June 23, 2022, and reports that he is happy to share his long-awaited essay, “18 Great Ways to Prepare Lasagna.” He resides in Las Vegas, Nev.
Email: wmarvin547@yahoo.com



G. Robert “Bob” Wein ’83 and his wife, Celeste (UConn ’83), have relocated to Philadelphia, Pa., where Bob teaches physics at Germantown Friends School.



Dave Estes ’84 and his wife, Jackie (UConn ’84), welcomed their first grandchild, Maeve Elizabeth, on May 13, 2022, born to oldest son Justin and his wife. Dave and Jackie both retired on June 1 and traveled this summer in their camper up and down the east coast and then out west to visit their children.

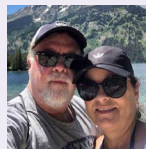
Mark “Lapdog” Lapham ’84 is happily retired and lives in Meredith, N.H. His first granddaughter, Amelia, arrived in October of 2017, and his second granddaughter, Audrey, joined his family in August 2021. He reports that he still plays gigs, but now with his son.
Email: marklapham@cox.net



Tony Pagliaro ’84 and two partners started a product design and development company that services the biopharmaceutical, cell, and gene therapy markets. In their first year, they will focus on product design and testing of innovative single-use products and fluid handling systems used in biopharmaceutical production. By year two, they intend on ramping up manufacturing for global distribution. Tony resides in Lansdale, Pa.



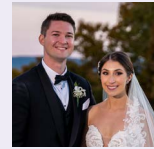
Mike Baldassari ’87 is a Tony® and Two-time Emmy® nominated lighting designer whose work has been seen live in more than 25 countries. His designs have been seen on Broadway, in film and on TV, including Jon Stewart’s new show on Apple+. He also designed seasons two and three of *My Next Guest Needs No Introduction* with David Letterman, in addition to many comedy specials for Louis C.K., John Mulaney, Ray Romano, Pete Davidson, and Joe Rogan, among others. Just recently, Mike lit *The Scorpions* at MSG for an international broadcast. He lives in Hoboken, N.J., and East Hampton, N.Y., with his wife, Arlene, and daughter, Sophia, who will be attending Oxford in the fall.
Email: mb@mike-o-matic.com



Chad Stewart ’88 and his wife, Donna, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a trip to Teton National Park and Yellowstone National Park. They reside in Fairfield, Conn.
Email: chadestew@sbcglobal.net



Chris Albert ’01 relocated to Fort Lauderdale, Fla., where he is the general manager of Fortress Anchors. Additionally, with his Florida real estate license, he works part-time with Global Fund Real Estate Group as a commercial agent, specializing in commercial tenant representation and buyer representation in the South Florida market. Chris has also started performing around South Florida as a standup comic under the stage name Chris Palmitessa. You can hear about his upcoming shows on Instagram at @chrispalmitessacomedy.
Email: gettingtoshredded@gmail.com



Luke Maloney ’18 married Bianca Wyman (UConn ’18) on November 6, 2021. He lives in Westerly, R.I. Email: lukepmal@gmail.com



Dylan Feldmeier ’19 is doing field work in Botswana as part of his master’s degree in environmental science at Yale University. Check out his amazing photographs at dylanefeldmeier.wixsite.com/dylanfeldmeier.
Email: dylan.feldmeier@uconn.edu

Thomas Acquista ’22 began a 4-year program at the UConn School of Dental Medicine, which he expects to culminate in a DMD degree in 2026 in furtherance of a long-term interest in dental cosmetics and facial surgery.

We want to hear from you! Please send us updates about your life—births, deaths, career, travel, hobbies, etc.—to SPEaconn@gmail.com.

CONGRATULATIONS, New Alumni

Thomas Acquista	Drew McClure
Connor Avallone	Aiden O'Connor
Max Berman	William Odell
Zachary Briggs	Corbin Quesnel
Stoney Brooks	Joshua Schlactus
Brian Brown	Alexander Steger
Ricky Cizeski	Justin Surowiec
Christopher Connolly	Fred Torres
Henry Glucksman	Michael Waugh
Jonathon Intravaia	Joshua Waxman
Zachary Kelly	Sam Weist
Harry Kiesling	



Brothers Tee It Up at the 2021 SigEp Open

JOIN US AT OUR 2022 GOLF OUTING

Thirty-two players gathered on September 19, 2021, at Tunxis Country Club in Farmington for a great day of golf with terrific weather. While there were many brothers rejoining us, it was also great to welcome some newcomers.

Tim Johnson '87 let the big dog eat for the longest drive on hole #10; **Ron Nault '84** put it closest to the pin on hole #4, as did **Andy Fitzsimons '86** on hole #16. **Brian "Brillo" Fitzgerald '83** led his team to the low team score and walked away with the coveted SigEp Green Jacket. Thank you to **Tom Davies '85**, **Jim Donahue '86**, **Paul Langella '87**, and **Jim Moreno '86** for donating prizes.

The 2022 SigEp Open will be held on September 18, 2022, at Tunxis Country Club. Anyone interested in attending the event or joining the group for a post-round dinner and drinks should RSVP no later than September 13 to **Paul Summers '87** at paulsum06790@gmail.com or (860) 309-5697.

Save the Date

2022 Extravaganza Reunion
Wickham Park, Manchester, Conn.
Saturday, September 17, 2022
Noon to 5 p.m.

It's always great to reconnect with brothers, so we hope to see you at our picnic in September! Please contact **Will "Mook" Marvin '82** at wmarvin547@yahoo.com or **Van Augur '20** speaconn@gmail.com if you have any questions or want to help.

In the meantime, please enjoy our new and improved SPEaconn to stay up to date with Connecticut Alpha. We have many upcoming plans, including the discussion of participating in Conclave on odd years. The success of Sigma Phi Epsilon is largely due to the support of our dedicated alumni; we will soon begin our fundraising efforts again to support future programming to help our brothers develop into Balanced Men. We will provide more information at the fall picnic; we hope you'll join us!

Reflecting on Ruck Highlighting the Benefits of the Leadership Institute

In June, I participated in the Ruck Leadership Institute in Richmond, Virginia. Ruck, as it is called, was an intense five-day program that challenged me to develop myself personally and as a leader.

I was bought in on the first day and assigned to a group of 19 other SigEps from different chapters and backgrounds. We were challenged to dig deep and analyze who we really are, what our values are, and what kind of a leader we want to be. Each day was programmed from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. with little free time. It was exhausting, but looking back, it was all worth it.

What I miss the most and what made the experience so great is the people. Those in my group were extraordinary individuals who were kind, empathetic, funny, intelligent, and unique in their own ways. We had such a short time together, but we quickly developed strong friendships. I know that I will stay in touch since we have already made plans to visit each other's schools. They made me laugh until I could not breathe and gave me great ideas for my chapter. Most importantly, they were some of the best friends I was blessed to have met.

The majority of Ruck and its developmental process centered around the Student Leadership Practice Inventory. SLPI is a survey you complete about yourself while having others complete it based on their view of you to provide a 360° perspective of you as a leader and person. I realized many things that I need to work on and received praise on things that I already do well as a leader. SLPI was helpful in breaking down my leadership style and targeting areas of improvement while also helping me discover what I truly value in life and the kind of person I want to be remembered as.

Above all, my biggest takeaway from Ruck is a commitment to a lifetime of service to the fraternity which has given me so much. SigEp has not only provided me with a complete college experience, but it has also set me up for life after college by teaching me interpersonal skills often not taught in a classroom setting. I left Ruck motivated to serve Connecticut Alpha and bring back what I learned to share with my chapter brothers. Ruck created a newfound love in me for the fraternity at the national level and inspired me to finish my term as president stronger than ever.

The future is bright, and what a great day it is to be a SigEp.

Fraternally,
Ethan Lovallo '23
Chapter President

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